

MONTANA CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY CENTER POLICY AND PROCEDURE MANUAL

Policy Subject: Variable Length of Stay	
Policy Number: CPT 06	Standards/Statutes: MCA 53.24.208 ARM 37.27.130
Effective Date: 01/01/02	Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE: To define policy and procedures which clarify a variable length of stay.

POLICY: A variable length of stay is determined by the patient's ability or inability to progress towards treatment goals and objectives.

PROCEDURE:

- I. Length of Stay for each patient is evaluated during the Clinical Stay Reviews (which must be scheduled 10 to 20 days after admission) and discharge criteria as established by ASAM criteria. (ARM 37.27.130)
- II. Variable length of stay could be influenced by but are not limited to:
 - A. The primary counselor in conference with multi-disciplinary team may initiate a discharge prior to the patient completing their treatment plan due to the patient being incapable or unwilling to progress towards treatment goals/objectives, inappropriate for the program, leaves voluntarily and or is discharged at staff request.
 - B. Medical staff (with a Doctor's discharge order) may discharge a patient due to a medical condition.
 - C. Psychiatric issues, which are identified to be beyond the scope for the program, then a multi-disciplinary team will decide the best course of action to be taken.
 - D. A patient may initiate his or her own discharge (with or without) having a justifiable reason for shortening their treatment stay. In such instances, the multi-disciplinary team will determine if the patient will receive full credit for completion of the program.
 - E. Patients may choose to leave the program with or without consulting the staff members. Such actions, depending on the situation, may result in an Against Medical Advice (AMA) discharges or an elopement.
 - F. Patients may require a slower treatment pace due to mental health, medical, cognitive impairment,

learning difficulties etc.

- G. The Length of Stay policy has a direct correlation with the Performance Measures (1 of 4) set forth by the Program. Factors of premature discharge should be identified as well as development of corrective action steps to improve the outcome measure. A quarterly data report is generated by the Information System Technician and provided to the Director.

Revisions: 7/16/01

Prepared By: Stephen King Chemical Dependency Supervisor 7/16/01
Name Title Date

Approved By: David J. Peshek, Administrator 01/01/02
Date